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Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General condemns shelling of Sarajevo; instructs military commanders to investigate immediately.

* Security Council welcomes Secretary-General's proposal to appoint Cape Verde Ambassador as Special Envoy to Great Lakes region.

* Military leaders sign cease-fire agreement in Croatia's Sector East.

* Fewer refugees return to Rwanda than anticipated; UNHCR Ogata to meet with Zaire's Prime Minister Tuesday.

* Secretary-General says International Tribunal for Rwanda has sound financial basis; first indictments expected before year-end.

* Government experts begin one-week meeting in Geneva to strengthen 1987 Montreal Protocol on ozone depletion.

* Committee on International Criminal Court concludes session; requests General Assembly to work towards early completion of draft convention establishing Court.

* Youth leaders from over 115 countries gather at United Nations for world youth leadership training summit.

* UNDP Administrator proposes that nationally recruited professional project personnel be granted greater financial powers for development projects.

* On eve of Beijing Conference, DPI announces publication of "United Nations and Advancement of Women, 1945-1995".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned today's shelling of downtown Sarajevo, which killed an estimated 33 innocent civilians and injured 74 others. He has called on the military commanders on the ground to investigate the attack immediately and to take appropriate action without

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the continued and senseless shedding of blood in Bosnia and Herzegovina was totally unacceptable.

According to his Spokesman, the damage was done by a 120 millimetre mortar shell which struck some 30 metres away from the Markale market -- the same marketplace that was hit in February 1994, killing 68 people and wounding over 200. Today's shelling was the worst single incident in Sarajevo since that time. The Spokesman said there were a number of other shells that fell on Sarajevo, totally six or seven, but that all reported fatalities and casualties were a result of the shell near the marketplace.

The United Nations in Sarajevo had indicated that in order to respond to the attack it was necessary to get all the facts straight and that an intense investigation was underway, including crater analysis, to determine the origin of the fire. Both parties, the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs, had accused each other of launching the attack. The Spokesman said it was premature to speculate on the origin of the shell until there was confirmation. A response would be determined by General Janvier, the Force Commander of UNPF, and General Smith, the Commander of UNPROFOR. The Spokesman underlined that at this time no options were being ruled out.

Meanwhile, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has expressed deep sadness and anger at "the utter depravity shown by those responsible for this inhuman act". In a statement issued today, he said the attack was yet another example of the senseless and unacceptable killing of innocent civilians in a United Nations designated safe area. Should ongoing investigations by UNPROFOR military commanders determine responsibility, he warned those responsible that strong action would be taken.

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The Security Council has welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to appoint Jose Luis Jesus, currently the Ambassador of Cape Verde to Portugal, as his Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region. Ambassador Jesus, who is at United Nations headquarters in New York this week for briefings before departing for the region, was formerly Cape Verde's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

As Special Envoy, Ambassador Jesus will facilitate the preparation and convening of the regional Conference on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa, which has been requested by the Security Council. With Ambassador Jesus' appointment, the Secretary-General has a total of 23 special/personal envoys or representatives worldwide.

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The two local military commanders in Croatia's Sector East have agreed on a cease-fire, according to a United Nations Spokesman. The agreement came into effect Saturday at noon local time. The local Croatian Army Commander

and the Croatian Serb Commander also agreed to meet again Tuesday to discuss further measures to ease tensions in the Sector.

Since the cease-fire went into effect, there have been very few firing incidents. The Spokesman said the United Nations was encouraged by this development and hoped it would lead to a more lasting peace in the area. Special Representative Yasushi Akashi was scheduled to travel to Sector East on Wednesday for meetings with local officials. Mr. Akashi was travelling to Belgrade Tuesday for a private meeting with President Milosevic.

In other news, the death of a French peace-keeper over the weekend, following a road accident on Friday, brought to 179 the total number of United Nations soldiers who have lost their lives in the former Yugoslavia.

Regarding the pull-out of the military contingents of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), the first group of 120 Nepalese soldiers had already departed, according to the United Nations Spokesman. The next departure would be on 7 September and would include a substantial number of Argentineans and more Nepalese. Between 7 September and 15 October, several thousand additional troops were expected to be withdrawn.

In Gorazde, the 80 remaining British troops are expected to leave Tuesday. The Spokesman said a team of eight unarmed United Nations military observers would stay in the pocket to monitor and observe the situation on the ground. He said the deterrent now available for Gorazde was extensive use of NATO air-power.

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The voluntary return of refugees into Rwanda over the weekend from camps around Goma, Zaire was much less than anticipated, according to a United Nations Spokesman. Talks were held over the weekend between a special envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Zairian officials.

High Commissioner Sadako Ogata would meet with the Prime Minister of Zaire in Geneva on Tuesday to seek agreement on a formal suspension of the expulsions and on a programme of voluntary return. Following the meeting, Mrs. Ogata would leave for the area, as requested by the Secretary-General.

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The International Tribunal for Rwanda, to be located in Arusha, Tanzania, now has a solid financial basis and will be operational later this year. That is the assessment of the Secretary-General in a report to the Security Council dated 25 August in which he says the first indictments are still expected before the end of 1995.

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According to the report, judges have been assigned to the two trial chambers and the Registrar is expected to be appointed within the next few days. The Tribunal has a total of 18 Professional staff and 56 additional staff are expected to arrive in Kigali shortly to join the Prosecutor's office. Present inquiries centre around a small number of individuals who are suspected of being principally responsible for the planning, incitement or commission of crimes. Investigators are analysing a large volume of material that has been collected during the past months and witnesses are being interviewed in Africa, Europe and North America. So far, no suspects appropriate for investigation have been found amongst persons currently being held in Rwandan prisons.

The President of the Tribunal and the Prosecutor will travel together to Kigali and Arusha next week to meet with government and United Nations officials to discuss various questions concerning the establishment of the Tribunal.

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Government experts today began a one-week meeting in Geneva to finalize recommendations to strengthen the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the meeting comes at a time when complacency, skepticism and the rapid increase in the consumption of ozone depleting substances (ODS) by several developing countries threaten to undo Protocol achievements.

Representatives of the 149 countries that ratified the treaty will discuss a series of proposed adjustments and amendments designed to further protect the Earth's ozone layer. All revisions will be formally presented for adoption later this year at the Meeting of the Protocol Parties in Vienna from 5 to 7 December.

The Montreal Protocol has been amended twice since its inception in 1987 - in London in 1990 and Copenhagen in 1992 - based on new scientific findings. In the latest assessment report of 1994, a panel found that the rates of atmospheric build-up of ozone depleting substances had slowed in recent years as a direct result of implementation of the Protocol. The peak global ozone depletion would occur during the next few years and then recover in over 50 years if additional measures were now taken. It recommended that developed countries tighten control measures on methyl bromide, which is used as a pesticide; however, the panel said the ozone layer would never recover if developing countries did not adopt some control measures for hydrochloroflourocarbons and methyl bromide, and if they increased their consumption of these substances at any significant rate.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court has recommended that the General Assembly work towards the early

completion of a draft resolution establishing the Court. The draft would then be considered by a confe ence of plenipotentiaries.

The decision was taken late Friday evening as the Committee approved its report to the General Assembly. Chairman Adriaan Bos (Netherlands) said the Committee had completed a substantial workload. During deliberations, speakers generally supported the court's competence over such crimes as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. There was widespread agreement that the statute should precisely define, rather than simply enumerate, crimes to be dealt with by the court.

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A five-day youth leadership training summit began at United Nations Headquarters today as part of the commemoration of the United Nations 50th anniversary. Attended by youth leaders from over 115 countries, the summit includes five plenary sessions and four training workshops designed to help young people develop specific skills. Plenary sessions will be carried with sound, text and photos on the Internet, enabling people across the globe to participate.

The summit will emphasize the continued importance of the United Nations in world affairs and the crucial role of youth for the future. The goals of the summit are to build critical leadership skills and promote a range of tools at the disposal of youth in achieving their goals. It is being organized by the International Youth Forum based at York University, Canada and co-sponsored by the secretariat of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary.

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In a move to increase efficiency, UNDP Administrator Gustave Speth has recommended that nationally recruited professional project personnel be granted greater financial powers to supervise development projects. In a report to the UNDP Executive Board, Mr. Speth recommends that internal financial rules and regulations be amended to allow national personnel to certify, approve or be appointed as signatories on UNDP project bank accounts.

In connection with the greater emphasis placed on national capacity-building, the report points out that UNDP has seen increased use of national human resources in the implementation of programmes and projects. The steady trend away from the use of international expertise has resulted in significant operational constraints where project supervision has been entrusted to nationally recruited personnel. Under current constraints, Mr. Speth says, "it is extremely difficult for project activities to be carried out effectively".

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The United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) has released a new book, The United Nations and the Advancement of Women, 1945-1995, on the eve of the Beijing Women's Conference. The sixth volume in the "blue book" series, the book outlines United Nations efforts to promote women's rights and includes over 100 historic United Nations documents.

The book features detailed chronologies of events and United Nations conferences and seminars designed to elevate the human rights of women to a prominent place on the international agenda. As Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali writes in his introduction, "No enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment of the world's women."

The United Nations and the Advancement of Women, 1945-1995 is on sale at the United Nations bookstore in New York and will be available shortly in Geneva and other bookstores worldwide. It will also be on sale, along with a Chinese edition, at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing from 4 to 15 September.

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